Investment in infrastructure projects

1959. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission is preparing a strategic plan for investment in infrastructure projects and has been placed before the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the main points mentioned in the report;

(c) whether Government has considered it; and

(d) its main features and by what time it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (d) The strategy for infrastructure development in the Eleventh Plan reflects the dominant role of the public sector in building infrastructure. However, it also recognises that total resources required to meet the deficit in infrastructure exceed the capacity of the public sector. It is, therefore, necessary to attract private investment through appropriate forms of public private partnerships (PPPs) to meet the overall investment requirement. The strategy for the Eleventh Plan thus, also encourages private sector participation directly as well as through various forms of PPPs where desirable and feasible. The projected investment in infrastructure during the Eleventh Plan is about Rs. 20,56,150 crore. This includes public investment of about Rs. 14,36,559 crore and private investment of about Rs. 6,19,591 crore.

Tax on products for construction of roads

†1960. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax is being collected from the consumers in the form of a cess on various products for construction of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the facts and names of the products on which the cess is being levied in the financial year 2008-09 for extension and development of road construction; and

(c) the total amount collected under tax realization till March, 2008 and the total amount which is estimated to be collected during the year 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presently Rs. 2.00 per litre are levied as cess in the form of additional excise duty on both petrol and high speed diesel.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The proceeds of the cess are first credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and the Central Government by appropriation credit such proceeds to the Central Road Fund (CRF) from time to time, after deducting the expenses of collection. The Central Road Fund is utilized for development of national highways, development of the rural roads, development and maintenance of other state roads including roads of Inter-State and Economic Importance and construction of roads either under or over the railways by means of bridge and erection of safety works at unmanned rail road crossing etc. as per the provisions of Central Road Fund Act, 2000. This Act came into force with effect from 1st November, 2000. The implementing Ministries are Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (Department of Road Transport and Highways).

(c) Presumably the Hon'ble Members are asking about cess collected on petrol and high speed diesel for extension and development of road construction in the country. The total amount collected in this regard upto March 2008 starting from financial year 2000-01 is Rs. 69267.66 crore. This Department has not made any estimation of cess collection on petrol and high speed diesel during year 2008-09. However, the amount of cess collected during 2008-09 (upto September, 2008) is Rs. 7511.54 crore.

National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

1961. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of kilometers of new highways that have been sanctioned and added in Uttar Pradesh (UP) during the last three years;

(b) the details of these highways;

(c) how many old roads have been taken over as highways;

(d) whether Government is aware that oldest highway Grand trunk road is in very bad condition throughout the year; and

(e) if so, the steps that are taken to clear encroachment and widen it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Two numbers of New National Highways having total length of 275 Kilometers have been added in Uttar Pradesh during last three years. One is NH No. NE II (Eastern Peripheral Expressway connecting NH No. 1 to NH No. 2) having length of 90 Kilometers in Uttar Pradesh and other is NH No. 24B from Lucknow to Allahabad via Rai Bareily having length of 185 Kilometers.

(d) and (e) National Highway No. 91 and the stretches of NH-2 and NH-1, forming part of old Grand Trunk road, are in traffic worthy condition. These highways are being properly maintained. No encroachments are permitted within the Right-of-Way (ROW) of these highways. Whenever an encroachment is noticed in the National Highway ROW, the same is removed with the help of District Authority and Police.